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Construction of a dam at Kilikudu.

* 1531 *Q.*—Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have finally decided to build a dam at Kilikudu?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1477.

Panchayat Courts.

Inspection of Panchayat Courts.

* 1532 *Q.*—Mr. D. Manjayya Heggade: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the authorities that inspect periodically or occasionally the Panchayat Courts?

A.—Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Government have made any arrangements by which they can ascertain how far these officers inspect the Panchayat Courts either periodically or occasionally?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"If the hon. Member has any particular district in mind I shall be glad to obtain the information."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Collectors send any reports?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"They do, Sir."

Mr. R. Veerian:—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars have, during their periodical inspections, found out whether members of the depressed classes are having free access to these Panchayat Courts?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"I do not know whether they have done so till now. But the strenuous endeavours made by the hon. Member who has just spoken, undoubtedly force themselves so much upon the attention of the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars that I have no doubt that they will pay attention to that matter."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi:—"May I ask whether the inspecting authorities send any reports of their inspection?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi:—"May I know whether a column in respect to the question of the appointment of members of the depressed classes, will be inserted in the reports?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"I can only say now that I will consider that suggestion."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar:—"May I know whether the Revenue Divisional Officers inspect these courts?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"They are not prevented from doing so."

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Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I know whether there are any courts in the province which are inspected by the Revenue Divisional Officers ? "

The hon. the President :—" That is a separate question."

Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Rules governing the conduct of Government servants.

* 1533 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government servants under the Transferred departments also are bound by rules governing the conduct of Government servants ;

(b) whether they can attend conferences convened by the politicians of the Ministerialist school of politics ; and

(c) how many Government servants attended the All-India Non-Brahman Congress at Amraoti and the Liberal Confederation at Madras held in last December ; and their names and their offices ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The extent to which Government servants may take part in political meetings is governed by rules 22 and 23 of the rules for the conduct of Government servants.

(c) The Government are not aware that any Government servant attended the meetings referred to.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" May I know whether the hon. Member is aware that Mr. C. D. Nayagam, Deputy Registrar, Vellore, was one of these gentlemen who attended the conference ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I am not aware, Sir."

Sriman Sasibhushan Rath Mahasayo :—" May I know whether the Government made any attempts to ascertain whether any Government servants attended the conference ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" We examined the reports that appeared in the papers and we found no names of Government servants in them."

The Raja of Ramnad :—" May I ask the hon. Member who put the original question whether he asked the question on any information or on only mere surmise about the Government officials attending the All-India Non-Brahman Conference ? "

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know whether such questions can be asked ? It is presumed that the hon. Members take the responsibility and if there is any doubt about it, your office asks us on your orders whether we take the responsibility for putting such questions ; and we generally say on what circumstances we do so. Such being the case, I request your ruling, Sir, whether such questions can be put by one Member to another Member. Perhaps the next question will be how much responsibility we take."

The hon. the President :—" The Raja of Ramnad does not question the bonafides of the questioner. He only wants to elicit information."